



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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#14c

In re patent application of:

Branch et al.

Serial No. 09/870,023

Filed 5/30/01

INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS
AND INSTRUMENTATION)
) Examiner
)
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) Group Art Unit
) 3731
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)
)
)I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
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Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on.

February 13, 2003

Date of Deposit

James B. Myers, Jr.

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

February 13, 2003

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2002, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks. Applicants filed concurrent with this Response a Request for an Extension of Time to respond this Office Action. Additionally, please provide any further extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

02/24/2003 CNGUYEN 00000073 233030 09870023

01 FC:1201 84.00 CH
02 FC:1202 306.00 CH**AMENDMENTS**

Please amend the following claims:

Sub D17
C17
1. (Amended) A spinal fusion implant, comprising:
a bone portion having an upper bone engaging surface, a lower bone engaging surface, a first
sidewall and an opposite second sidewall extending between said upper and lower bone engaging